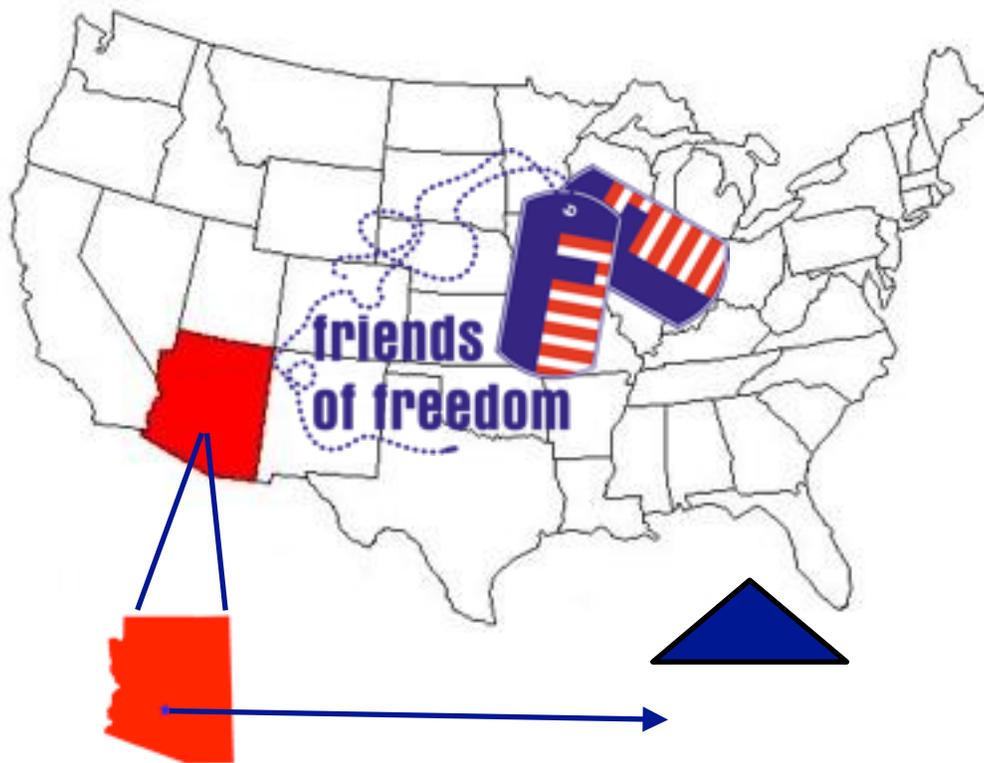


# Executive Summary of Case for Support



Translating Military Service into Civilian Success

## Mission & Purpose

Friends of Freedom (FOF) believes that America's military veterans deserve the full measure of care and assistance they need to live with dignity, hope and independence.

Our purpose is to facilitate the transition from military to civilian life by supporting programs ensuring the most efficient delivery of services. In addition, we will provide compassionate assistance when needed and foster morale programs to benefit the families and service members, past and present.

# Friends of Freedom



## The Issue

The dawn of a new century found our nation at war in Afghanistan and Iraq in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Nearly two million Americans have now served in these wars, risking their lives to protect our country and preserve freedom and democracy. Their service is a voluntary act of courage and commitment

## No One Left Behind

**Transition from military to civilian life** can be a daunting task, and for many people it's a confusing time. For some service members, separation from the military can be an overwhelming personal experience, create financial hardship, and contribute to the already challenged family system. A successful transition can be accomplished by helping the service member clarify their personal and professional goals as well as identify their plans for achieving those goals.

## Compassion

Often, it takes only a tragedy, death in the family or a health issue to cause financial disaster. There are virtually no resources readily available to help the individual family of the service or a veteran in need. There are hurdles, timelines, deadlines and cutoffs that just cannot be navigated easily down at the ground level.

## Morale

A chance to reconnect with family, your platoon or service mates, veterans of different conflicts and moments to remember those that have paid the price of freedom, are too often forgotten

Employment

Opportunity

Joy

Family Challenges

FROM MILITARY  
TO CIVILIAN  
SUCCESS

## THE ISSUES

Currently, veterans make up 1,548,800 or 12.1% of the nation's unemployed. Over 1 million active duty military are to retire in the next 10 years.

15-18% of the service member retirement community will retire to Arizona.

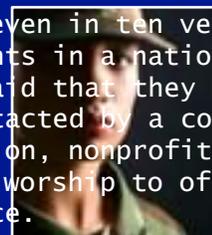
Nearly 100,000 of the Iraqi and Afghanistan war veterans have monthly rent that exceeds their monthly income.

Over 30,000 military marriages ended in 2011.

Suicide rate among the Iraqi and Afghanistan war veterans is higher than the civilian population rate of suicide.

It is estimated that as much as 30% of the veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTS.

Nearly seven in ten veteran respondents in a national survey said that they had NOT been contacted by a community institution, nonprofit, or place of worship to offer assistance.



# Friends of Freedom



## The Solution

Utilizing the non-profit, tax-exempt, IRS designation of a 501(c)(3) organization, FOF will deliver Career Programming, workforce development and care and comfort programs to our veterans and active duty service members and their families

## Friends of Freedom History

Over the last 5 years as a non-profit we have Executed hundreds of acts of compassion and delivered over 800,000 cigars to boost morale in the Forward Operating Bases. Each year we have held career expos to support service members and veterans in getting into the work they desire. We have delivered cars to soldiers without autos, hotel rooms for those that need a respite and airfare for emergencies. Complete 13 year history available on line at [www.friendsoffreedom.us](http://www.friendsoffreedom.us)

### PROGRAMMING SUPPORT

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>🕒 Career Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 Translating Military Skills Assessment</li> <li>🕒 Mentorship</li> <li>🕒 Career Fairs with NCOA (Non Commissioned Officers Assoc)</li> <li>🕒 Identifying Career Opportunities</li> <li>🕒 Micro-Funding Business Opportunities</li> <li>🕒</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>🕒 Compassionate Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 Mobility Devices including motorized wheel chairs and traditional wheelchairs</li> <li>🕒 Emergency Flights</li> <li>🕒 Emergency funds to Power, water, car payments, childcare</li> <li>🕒 Reconnecting Families with getaway trips</li> <li>🕒 Connecting services to needs</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Morale Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 Special Events</li> <li>🕒 Family Activities</li> <li>🕒 Cigars for Soldiers programs</li> <li>🕒 Getaway travel for families to reconnect</li> <li>🕒 Golf Tournaments to create bonds of service members to veterans and to business community</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaborative Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 <b>SNOWBALL EXPRESS:</b> Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual event 2015 took 1700 children of the fallen to our annual Christmas program</li> <li>🕒 <b>Salute to the Troops:</b> Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual event brought 125 severely wounded from Walter Reed Hospital to Las Vegas for a 4 day getaway</li> <li>🕒 <b>Partners with AMERICAN AIRLINES VETERANS INITIATIVES, USO, NCOA, Ft WORTH Power Foundation, Fighter Country Luke AFB</b></li> </ul>

# Friends of Freedom Programs

## **SNOWBALL EXPRESS, YEAR 11**

- 1700 Children of fallen soldiers taken to Dallas for a 4 day Christmas party. A reminder we are there for them, delivering support and services to their families year round across the country
- 800 Volunteers
- Collaborative Partners: American Airlines Veterans Initiatives, USO, NCOA, Ft. Worth Power Foundation

## **Patriot Day Golf Year 6**

- A day out on the course with 100 service men and women
- Fundraiser for all programs

## **Cigars for Soldiers Year 13**

- Ô Delivering thousands of cigars to FOB's around the world, 800,000 in 13 years
  - Ô Sponsoring over 60 events annually with military VSO programs from Delaware to Florida to California and Arizona
- Cigar Socials stateside and overseas

## **Salute to the Troops Year 8**

- 125 Severely wounded taken From rehab centers at Walter Reed Medical Ctr to Las Vegas for 4 days of fun and freedom from the mental and physical rigors of rehab after war.
- Collaborative Partners: American Airlines Veterans Initiatives, USO, NCOA, Ft. Worth Power Foundation

## **Career Expos with NCOA Year 4** Annual get back to work support!

Mentoring and career counseling

Entrepreneur Incubator Program

## **Morale! Friends of Freedom Style!**

Ô Getaway trips for Families to famous resorts

Ô Battalion Picnics

Ô "Golf Outings for Service Members

Ô Cigar Socials and FOB Cigar Clubs from Afghanistan to Iraq, on 2 Aircraft Carriers

Ô The Challenge: Multiple Amputees climbing Mt Denali, Mt Kilimanjaro and Hiking Rim to Rim at the Grand Canyon